

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lithium secondary battery comprising a positive electrode, a negative electrode, an electrolytic solution and a separator, wherein a plurality of positive electrodes and negative electrodes are arranged to construct an electrode structure which includes an outermost layer of electrode on which a back coat layer is formed, ~~and wherein~~ the entire surface of the outermost layer is covered with the back coat layer, ~~and~~ only the outermost layers of the electrode structure are covered with the back coat ~~layers~~ layer and the outermost electrodes are negative electrodes.

Claim 2 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer has a function of preventing the electrodes from short-circuiting.

Claim 3 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer has a function of preventing the electrodes from warping.

Claim 4 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer contains at least an inorganic material as a filler and/or a resin.

Claim 5 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said filler is the same material as an electrode active material.

Claim 6 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said separator has a piercing strength of at least 50 gf.

Claim 7 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said back coat layer has a thickness of 50 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 8 (Original): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1 wherein said electrode structure is a laminate structure.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1, wherein said outermost layer of electrode is the negative electrode.

Claim 10 (New): The lithium secondary battery of claim 1, wherein the back coat layer has the same composition as the negative electrode active material-containing layer.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 3-8 are original.

Claim 9 was previously presented.

Claim 10 is new.

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-10 will be active.

The Amendment to Claim 1 is supported on page 6, lines 19-29 which describes Fig. 1 and by Fig. 1 which illustrates the claimed configuration where the outermost electrodes are negative electrodes.

New Claim 10 is supported on page 7, lines 27-30 of the specification.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.